

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0273

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJECT: PEKING UNIVERSITY AND THE "CH'AOYANG SPIRIT"

REF: PEKING 0199

SUMMARY. PEKING UNIVERSITY IS APPARENTLY IN CONSIDERABLE TURMOIL ONCE AGAIN AS IT STRIVES TO EMULATE A NEW EDUCATION MODEL --THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE OF CH'AOYANG, LIAONING-- WHICH EMPHASIZES WORK ON THE COMMUNE AND OPERATES UNDER THE SNAPPY TITLE OF "FROM THE COMMUNE AND BACK TO THE COMMUNE".

1. WE HAVE HARD REPORTS FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES THAT LARGE MEETINGS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN HELD AT PEKING UNIVERSITY (PEITA) TO STUDY THE "CH'AOYANG SPIRIT" AND PROMOTE A CAMPAIGN BASED ON EMULATION OF THE NEW MODEL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE IN LIAONING. SECOND AND THIRD YEAR STUDENTS HAVE BEEN VARIOUSLY REPORTED AS ALL BEING DOWN IN THE COUNTRYSIDE OR AS GOING TO THE COUNTRYSIDE IN LARGE GROUPS FOR EXTENDED PERIODS. ONE FOREIGN STUDENT REPORTS THAT HIS ROOMMATE HAS RETURNED HOME EVERY EVENING THOROUGHLY EXHAUSTED FROM PARTICIPATION IN LABOR AND ALONG WITH OTHER ROOMMATES OF FOREIGN STUDENTS WILL BE LEAVING  
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AFTER THE SPRING FESTIVAL BREAK FOR SIX MONTHS IN THE

COUNTRYSIDE. PAKISTANIS HAVE CONFIRMED STORY REPORTED REFTEL THAT FOREIGN TEACHERS' CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED AT PEITA BECAUSE "THERE ARE NO ADVANCED STUDENTS" AND THERE WILL BE NONE NEXT YEAR.

2. "PEOPLE'S DAILY" ON DECEMBER 2, 1974, (SPRCP 5780) FIRST PUBLICIZED THE EXPERIENCE GAINED FROM REORGANIZING THE CH'AMZANG BRANCH AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE IN LIAONING, CALLING IT A "SOCIALIST NEW THING" ON THE EDUCATION FRONT. CH'AOYANG SELECTED ITS STUDENTS FROM AMONG THE POOR AND LOWER-LEVEL PEASANTS, GAVE THEM THREE YEARS OF TRAINING WHICH INCLUDED FULL-TIME ACADEMIC WORK THE FIRST YEAR, 7-8 MONTHS ACADEMIC WORK/4-5 MONTHS WORK ON THE COMMUNE THE SECOND YEAR, AND 4-5 MONTHS ACADEMIC WORK/7-8 MONTHS WORK ON THE COMMUNE THE THIRD YEAR. UPON GRADUATION THEY WERE SENT BACK TO THE COMMUNE TO BE EDUCATED PEASANTS. THIS SYSTEM OF "FROM THE COMMUNE AND BACK TO THE COMMUNE" WAS SAID TO HAVE WON THE SUPPORT OF THE PEASANTS WHO NOTED APPROVINGLY THAT "THIS GROUP OF COLLEGE STUDENTS HAVE MUD ALL OVER THEIR BODIES AND CALLUSES ALL OVER THEIR HANDS."

3. COMMENT: THE CH'AOYANG MODEL MAY MAKE SOME SENSE AS A MEANS FOR AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES TO PROMOTE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION, AND USLO OFFICERS HAVE ENCOUNTERED SEVERAL INSTANCES WHERE YOUTHS FROM THE COMMUNES ARE TRAINED IN THE CITIES AND THEN RETURN TO ASSUME CADRE POSITIONS ON THEIR OLD COMMUNE. HOWEVER, THE WHOLESAL APPLICATION OF THIS MODEL -- IF THAT IS WHAT IS INTENDED -- TO LEADING ACADEMIC CENTERS LIKE PEITA IS ANOTHER MATTER. STUDENTS THERE PRESUMABLY FEEL THEY HAVE DONE THEIR STINT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AND LOOK FORWARD TO ASSUMING POSITIONS IN

THE PRC ELITE FOLLOWING GRADUTATION. IF THEY ARE NOW BEING TOLD THEY MAY BE SENT BACK TO THE COUNTRYSIDE PERMANENTLY, THE REACTION COULD IN ITSELF EXPLAIN THE NEED TO SEGREGATE THE CHINESE FROM THE FOREIGN STUDENTS AND TEACHERS AT THE SCHOOL. REGARDLESS OF HOW THE CH'AOYANG CAMPAIGN SORTS ITSELF OUT, THIS GENERATION OF STUDENTS WHO SPENT A COUPLE OF YEARS ON THE COMMUNE, RETURNED TO AN ACADEMIC SYSTEM IN TURMOIL BECAUSE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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EXPERIMENTATION, AND THEN DEVOTED AN INORDINATE AMOUNT OF TIME LAST YEAR IN THE ANTI-LIN PIAO, ANTI-CONFUCIUS CAMPAIGN IS AGAIN HAVING ITS ACADEMIC STUDIES DISRUPTED.  
BUSH

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## Message Attributes

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